ARMED FORCES MEDICAL LIBRARY

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ISSUED FROM THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

FRIENDS OF AFML MEETING

The annual meeting of the Friends of the Armed Forces Medical Library will be held at the Willard Hotel, Washington, D. C., on Friday evening, 23 October 1953, with Dr. Henry R. Viets, Chairman, presiding. It will be a dinner meeting, cocktails to be served in the Executive Room at 6:30 and dinner in the Cabinet Room at 7:30.

The principal speaker will be Dr. Jean A. Curran, Dean of the State University of New York College of Medicine, who will talk on the life of John Shaw Billings.

The Executive Committee of the Friends will meet at the Library at 4 p. m. in the afternoon preceding the banquet.

CLASSIFICATION FOR 19TH CENTURY PUBLICATIONS

Simplified classification schedules have been prepared by the Armed Forces Medical Library for 19th century publications (1800-1913 inclusive), in order to effect a segregation on the shelves of the older clinical material. This plan supersedes that provided for in the first edition of the classification schedules (Cf. Army Medical Library Classification, 1951. p. 9). The general outline of the new plan is the same as for the complete schedules. A third letter is added to the class letters to provide the breakdown. Thus letters only are employed, except in a few cases where numbers from the complete tables are retained. The simplified classification is applied according to the same general principles as used with the complete schedules.

The new plan has been issued as Army Medical Library Classification, Additions and Changes, List no. 3. Copies have been sent to those who requested previous lists. Requests for additional copies should be addressed to the Catalog Division, Armed Forces Medical Library, Washington 25, D. C.

EXHIBITS

The exhibit for October is devoted to the AFML Catalog and features the volume for 1952. It shows a book cataloged in 1952 and the word picture of the book as presented by its catalog card. The exhibit demonstrates how this book may be located through the Library's card catalog, either by author or by subject, and how a person distant from the District of Columbia has access to this same information in the AFML Catalog when in search of a book not locally available. To illustrate the way the Catalog is prepared, pages in their before-and-after-reproduction states are included. The exhibit was prepared by Miss Eleanor R. Hasting, Head of the Processing Section, Catalog Division.

Last month's exhibit of contemporary medical humor, selected and arranged by Mr. Joseph Tucker, will be removed to the Medical Museum of the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology.

At the request of a group of Norwegian medical librarians, the AFML exhibit shown at the First International Congress on Medical Librarianship, in London in July, was shipped to the United States Information Service Library in Oslo for further showing. It may be shown elsewhere before being returned to the United States.

FIRST QUARTER CENTURY FOR MR. AUSTIN

A brief ceremony was held in the office of the Director on 10 September, which marked the completion of 25 years of service to the Library by Mr. Robert B. Austin, Head of the Circulation and Book Custody Section. The Director presented to Mr. Austin a Certificate of Achievement signed by the Surgeon General.

On 12 September, 62 friends of Mr. Austin gathered to honor him at a testimonial dinner at the Congressional Hotel. Colonel Rogers served as toastmaster, and Miss Carrie Duncan, Dr. Atherton Seidell, and Miss Mildred E. Blake (Tulane University) spoke in tribute to Mr. Austin. Mrs. Florence A. Cooksley, on behalf of the group, presented to Mr. Austin a handsome scrapbook of pictures and congratulatory messages from all over the world. In his response, Mr. Austin magnanimously paid tribute to his staff and noted the tremendous changes that have occurred during his period of service.

(LOOKING) TOWARD THE 1954 MLA CONVENTION

Long, long ago the Librarians of the VA Library Service, the National Institutes of Health, the Library of Congress, and the Armed Forces Medical Library sent an invitation to the Medical Library Association to hold the 1954 MLA Convention in Washington, D. C. The invitation was accepted; now Washington medical librarians are becoming distinctly aware of the fact that only nine months remain before the MLA convenes at the Hotel Statler, 15 - 18 June 1954.

The General Chairman for the Convention is Lieutenant Colonel Frank B. Rogers (AFML). The Convention Committee as a whole consists of the General Chairman and the Chairmen of the following committees:

Program - - - - - -	Scott Adams (NIH)
Convention Facilities- -	Estelle Brodman (AFML)
Banquet and Meals- - -	Mabel McLaughlin (VA)
Tours and Transportation -	Ruth MacDonald (AFML)
Hospitality -	Ruth Rodier (Naval Medical Center)
Special Exhibit - - -	Samuel Lazerow (AFML)

The three local medical schools, various local hospitals, and the Library of Congress are represented among the various committee members, and the Program Committee also has representation from Baltimore, Philadelphia, and Brooklyn.

Big plans are getting under way. It has been a long time since MLA met in Washington (1927 was the last occasion, and previously to that, in 1920, 1915, and 1913), and we aim to make up for the gap.

REDECORATION OF THE EAST WING

On Friday, 4 September, work began on the redecoration of the Library's east wing (Room 208) and was finished by Monday, 14 September. The painting of the large ceiling and the walls of the balcony was practically completed during the Labor Day week end, with only touching up here and there remaining after the staff returned to duty. To prepare for the painting of the area beneath the balcony, the service staff was called upon to move a large number of volumes shelved there. Although the painters left dust and debris behind them, they could be forgiven in view of the very efficient way they transformed the appearance of the whole area from that of a dingy cavern into a room of light and color.

THE VARIANT ISSUE

That perennial problem of booksellers, bookbuyers, catalogers, and bibliographers - the variant issue - is about as complicated as a chess game, and almost as intriguing. The commonest type is the variant date, which is moved forward by a year - much more rarely, by several years - to keep the book current. For example, the Library has the Gibaltus translation and commentary on Galen's De febribus, published by Rovillius at Lyons in 1561. We were offered a 1562 copy, but observed that it had the same author, same title, same translator-commentator, same imprint, and same pagination as the 1561. One may suppose that the book was not all sold out at the end of 1561, and that the publisher supplied the remaining copies with a new title - page dated 1562. Publishers today still do the same thing.

A less common type of variant has to do with the publisher. The Library has Giovanni Battista Monte's commentary on Galen's Ars parva, published at Lyons in 1556 by Joannes Frellonius, with 16 preliminary leaves and 975 numbered pages. At the end is: "Michael Sylvius typographus." We were offered another copy of the same work, Lyons, 1556, with the same pagination and the same printer's note at the end, but on the title-page the name of Antonius Vincentius as the publisher-distributor. Obviously these two books belong to the same edition, part of which was distributed by Jean Frellon and part by Antoine Vincent. A variant title-page was printed up for each of the issues.

There is one more type of variant, but it is extremely rare. This is the variant title, which seems to represent an afterthought on the part of the author or the publisher or both. We have in the Library a copy of Andrea Cesalpini's Praxis universae artis medicae, published at Treviso in 1606, at the expense of Meiettus, in 8 preliminary leaves and 715 numbered pages. An Italian bookseller has shown us a card for apparently the same edition. The imprint was: Tarvisii, Meiettus, 1606. The pagination was the same except for 2 extra leaves at the end. But the title read: Summa universae artis medicae. Unfortunately, the copy had been sold some time before, so that there was no opportunity to verify the title. The case remained likely but inconclusive. If there had been a record of the collation by signatures and these had corresponded, there would have been little doubt. But with the slight variation in pagination and without an opportunity to check signatures, one could not feel quite sure. Since Cesalpini died in 1603, the change of title, if such there was, must have been decided on by the publisher.

With a true bookseller's sense of humor, our Italian friend, with a quizzical look, remarked: "As you see, we specialize in variant issues. Some day I think we shall find you a variant author!"

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